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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: L

1 - SR/2

NO. L

ROOM 2603

BLDG. 282

DATE

28 FEB
1962TO: (Officer designating proper file, and
building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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AIR

OSSW-3172

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Chief C

Chief, SR, thru Chief, WE

Operational/LCIMPROVE/TILEBURY
Debriefing of TILEBURY/1

REFERENCE: OSSA-3798

1. In accordance with your request in paragraph 5-a of referenced dispatch, we are transmitting herewith the following information on the personalities mentioned in the debriefing. These traces were obtained from CAMBARO/1.

a. Dr. Harijs BERGMANIS. Born about 1922. His father was an official in the Riga Customs Administration. His mother is said to have been of Russian origin; both parents and children spoke Russian fluently. H. B. has a sister, Alise, who was born about 1920. In 1941, after the Soviets withdrew from Latvia, Alise B. married Vidvuds SVEIGS, whom she had known in high school. Their first son, Aivars, was born in 1942. At that time the family was living in Riga at Blaumana iela 26, Apt. 23.

Harijs Bergmanis began to study medicine at the University of Latvia in Riga about 1942. In October 1944, he left Riga together with his sister and her family in order to escape from Kurzeme to Sweden. His brother-in-law, Vidvuds SVEIGS, managed to obtain for him a certificate from the Frontaufklarungstrupp 212 (a military espionage unit of the German Army) which enabled H. B. to live in Kurzeme for a couple of months without being bothered by the German security forces. They arrived in Ventspils about mid-October 1944 and lived there for about a month together with other refugees from Riga, including among others, Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds PUKSIS (the latter is now in Sweden where she re-married, her present husband is the economist-statistician Karlis ZIVERTS, a co-worker of Gen. Verners TEPFERS); Mrs. Daiga KRASTINS, nee Vibulis (now in Sweden, re-married to the Reverend Leonids CUIKE in Uppsala), and others. At the beginning of November, all the refugees were ordered to move out from Ventspils to the seashore around Jurkalne where they were to wait for boats from Sweden. From this group only Mrs. KRASTINS (now CUIKE) managed to escape to Sweden on the night of 16 November. Harijs BERGMANIS

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participated together with his brother-in-law and other younger men, among them Janis LUKINS (now in Stockholm, Sweden), in clandestine patrols along the sea coast to watch for the boats from Sweden. Around Christmas 1944, the Germans organized a big raid in order to arrest the would-be escapees; during this raid both Harijs BERGMANIS and Vidvuds SVEIGS were arrested and jailed in Liepaja. After a couple of months they were both released from prison; Vidvuds SVEIGS was assigned to a reserve unit of the Latvian Legion in Liepaja, but Harijs BERGMANIS returned to Jurkalne. During the days of the capitulation, V. SVEIGS joined his family in Jurkalne. About a week after the capitulation, V. SVEIGS and H. BERGMANIS were detained by the Soviets and placed in a "Filtration" camp near Ventspils. Here they managed to get on good terms with the prison guards and were released soon after. Harijs BERGMANIS went to Riga shortly after his release and resumed his studies at the University. He graduated about 1947 and worked as an assistant physician at the Kasmri health resort in the summer of 1947 and 1948; at this time he was already married. In 1948 he was assigned to the post of hospital director in Viesite, Latvia.

More detailed information on Harijs BERGMANIS could be obtained from Mrs. Daidra CUDRE, now residing at Jaernbrogatan 60-c, Uppsala, Sweden, and from Janis LUKINS, now in Stockholm.

b. Izolde VITGELS, nee Borsins. Born 1919. Attended the 2nd Municipal High School in Riga in 1933-1938. Soon after graduating from high school, she married a Latvian lawyer, VITGELS. During the German occupation her husband was drafted into the Latvian Legion and was missing after World War II. Izolde VITGELS was said to have lived in Kuldiga after the war, where she was visited now and then by her former boy friend, Andrejs APARTIS. She has one daughter, born about 1939. Izolde VITGELS was considered to be a very intelligent girl. Her political attitude is undetermined.

c. Hermanis HERGS. Not definitely identified, possibly a brother of Hugo HERGS, who was arrested in 1941 by the NKVD because of his participation in the underground movement. Hermanis HERGS could be about 30-35 years old. The HERGS were known as a very patriotic family; their living conditions were rather poor. Their father was a sea captain.

d. Tugalifs TILDE - Not known. The first name is a very unusual one; possibly an error was made in its spelling.

e. PIEVINTIS, fmu - Not identified.

f. Oskars LEIDMANIS. No dentist by that name is known; however, he may be identical with Oskars LEIDMANIS, born 1919, who studied economics or law at the University of Latvia. He was a member of the student fraternity "Fraternitas Lettica." About 1942 Oskars L.

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married Velta LUSIS, a daughter of the well-known opera singer Kerta LUSIS. Oskars LEIDMANIS' father, Janis LEIDMANIS, and his brother Juris LEIDMANIS, escaped to Sweden in 1945. After 1946, Oskars L. became a member of a national underground group, where he was given the task to build up an underground cell among artists of the Riga Opera House due to the fact that he was well acquainted with many artists. The wife of Oskars L., Velta, immigrated to the US together with her mother in 1950 and remarried, since she had lost all hope of seeing her husband again.

It is probable that Oskars L. was well acquainted with Andrejs APSITIS already prior to World War II, since they were close neighbors in Riga. Juris LEIDMANIS was very well acquainted with Andrejs APSITIS, since they were both artillery officers with the 19th Division of the Latvian Legion in Kurskene.

g. Dr. med Alfreds VITOLIS - Not Identified.

h. Edwards SIRONS (SCHIRONS would be the German spelling). Born 1893 in Veepiebalga, Latvia. Was a lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Latvia. He was known for his anti-Communist attitude. More information on Edwards SIRONS could be obtained from Arnolds AISESILNIKS, Professor of Economics, now in Stockholm, and Karlis ZIVERTS, Lecturer on Economics, also in Stockholm.

i. J. ČERNIS - not definitely identified. Information about a lawyer ČERNIS, fmu, who is said to have been engaged in the Latvian national underground, might be obtained from Dr. Valdis GINTERS and Janis LIKINS, both in Stockholm.

~~J. Edwards KLAVALAPA~~ - Not known. ^{SOVIET LATVIAN} FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN WHO EXFILTRATED ANDREJS AISESILNIKS ^{IN 1955 AND BRITISH REDSOX AGENT SAVOU} 2. No further identifiable traces on these personalities are available - KAREN ^{IN 1955}

j. Preliminary analysis of the submitted information for evidence of any LEGIMPROVE aspects leads to the decision that because of the meager information available and the extreme difficulty involved in cross-checking TILBURY/1's story, no definite conclusions regarding RIS control or lack thereof can be reached.

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4. TILBURY/1's story in general is consistent with known Soviet reality. Subject's employment history is similar to several other known cases of ex-Legionnaires. The fact that subject owns a Mercedes is not too incriminating if we take into account the fact that his wife is in favor with the Soviets and presumably has a good salary. Several cases are known where average semi-skilled workmen have purchased new Soviet-manufactured automobiles. It would be of interest to determine possibly from TILBURY what is the year of manufacture of the Mercedes.

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5. Although the Dynamo Sports Club is sponsored by the MVD, and the members are predominantly pro-Communist, it is nevertheless a sports club and as such, it must recruit members on the basis of athletic skills and prowess regardless of their political reliability. Cases are known where the Dynamo has "raided" other clubs and industries in order to obtain outstanding players. TILBURY may have further information on this aspect and may be able to report when and under what circumstances TILBURY/1 joined this club and what sport(s) he specialized in.

6. The fact that TILBURY/1 exfiltrated with the primary aim of obtaining AIS support for the organization is entirely consistent with the facts in the VALDENMAR case. If you will recall, when VALDENMAR exfiltrated in 1948 it was with the primary objective of obtaining AIS support for the organization. Inasmuch as he was unable to effect any contact with the AIS, he reluctantly accepted joint SMOTR/TILBURY support and returned to Latvia on a mission after receiving training. Prior to his return however, he established independent means of communication with CANTABRO/1 with the intention that if the latter could succeed in contacting and interesting the AIS, these communication channels could be utilized for maintaining contact with the AIS. Since his return to Latvia, VALDENMAR has written several overt-text letters to CANTABRO/1 wherein it is apparent he is still anxiously attempting to establish this contact with the AIS.

7. Subject's exfiltration route via Ventspils may well have been dictated by the organization and may represent their conception of proper clandestine cut-out procedures. On the basis of available reports, it is considered probably true that a person can travel into and out of Ventspils without the forbidden zone cachet being required or having it entered in his passport. Permanent residents, however, who register with the local militia, receive the forbidden zone cachet.

8. It is felt to be quite possible that a logical reason existed for issuing the rubber boat to TILBURY/1 in Riga rather than directly to the fisherman since his Riga contact may have had no means to get it directly to KLAVALAPA or may not even have been aware of his identity. A somewhat incongruous note appears, however, if we consider the spectacle of two men with a deflated rubber boat on a motorcycle at night traveling the considerable distance from Ventspils to Riga on a road which is immediately adjacent to a patrolled beach. In addition, latest reports indicate the entire coastal area of Latvia is in the category of a restricted zone, probably up to a depth of 12 km. inland. It is conceivable, of course, that "ANBIS", because of his occupation and residence, may have been able to provide for a suitable cover story and documentation.

9. As far as the LCDMPROVE aspects of VALDENMAR are concerned, there is not now any factual evidence, nor has there been, that his network is under RIS control. In view of the ever-present possibility of RIS control which is inherent in this type of case and which has, moreover, been compounded by the duration and extent of VALDENMAR's operations, Headquarters has always been inclined to treat VALDENMAR with a good deal of healthy skepticism. It should be emphasized that there is no known basis in fact for considering VALDENMAR to be RIS controlled, and our own cautious approach to him is merely a case of presuming him guilty until proven innocent.

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10. Upon receipt of the TIGMAR debriefings and further details from TILBERTY, it is hoped sufficient information will be available in order to permit a thorough LCIMPROVE analysis of this case.

11. Please note that several of the true names mentioned in paragraph 1 have assigned cryptonyms.

Distribution

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REG ----- 1

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/lsb

20 July 1955

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